

ACS COVID Health & Safety Protocols

September 9, 2021 - Asheville City Board of Education

Information Current as of September 9, 2021



#StayStrongNC

StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12)

INTERIM GUIDANCE

Originally Published June 2020 • Updated August 26, 2021

Effective Date: July 30, 2021



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

NC Public Health Toolkit (K-12)

Current Public Health Guidance

What we know about COVID-19 in the School Settings

Prevention Strategies

- Should vs. Required
- Could vs. Recommended
- NCDHHS advises that school leaders adopt the strategies in the SHOULD sections.

We encourage families and staff to use this tool to better understand how to keep our schools safe and healthy as possible.

Information Current as of September 9, 2021



ACS Data Snapshot

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

ACS New COVID-19 Cases Associated with a School

School Campus <i>*Includes PK Classrooms</i>	New Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19		Total NEW Number of Confirmed Positives in Active Isolation	Total Number of Confirmed Positives in Active Isolation*
	Student	Staff		
APS*	0	0	0	0
HFE*	2	0	2	2
LSH*	2	0	2	2
Jones*	1	0	1	1
IDE*	2	0	2	2
CLX	0	0	0	0
MNSA	0	0	0	0
AMS	4	0	4	4
SILSA	0	0	0	0
AHS	3	1	4	4
Central Office	0	0	0	0

Data shared with families on 9/9/2021

September 2nd-8th 2021

COVID-19 Impact

School Campus <i>*Includes PK Classrooms</i>	New Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19		Total Number of Positive Cases of COVID-19 <i>Since August 23, 2021</i>	Total Number Students in Quarantine this Week (September 2nd - 8th)
	Staff	Student		
APS*	0	0	2	4
HFE*	2	0	5	4
LSH*	2	0	2	6
Jones*	1	0	5	8
IDE*	2	0	6	14
CLX	0	0	1	2
MNSA	0	0	4	19
AMS	4	0	11	43
SILSA	0	0	0	Not Ready
AHS	3	1	10	Not Ready
Central Office	0	0	0	NA



ACS Protocol Reminders

Vaccination

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. **(Toolkit Page 2)**

People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe illness, including hospitalization or death. **(Toolkit Page 7)**

A [growing body of evidence](#) suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are also less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to others than people who are not fully vaccinated. **(Toolkit Page 7)**

→ → → **Upcoming [Vaccine Events in Buncombe County](#)**

Handling Possible, Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19 **Updated August 18, 2021**

Symptoms: **Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. (Toolkit Page 14)**

Occurrence of any of the symptoms below while a student, teacher, or staff member is at school suggests the person may be referred for diagnostic COVID-19 testing or evaluation.

Fever or Chills	New loss of taste or smell
Cough	Sore throat
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Congestion or runny nose
Fatigue	Nausea or vomiting
Muscle or body aches	Diarrhea
Headache	

**Students, teachers, and staff
who have symptoms of
COVID-19, should stay home and
be referred to their healthcare
provider for testing and care.
(Toolkit Page 14)**

Handling Possible, Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19

Diagnosed: People presumed to have or are diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home until they meet the criteria for returning to school. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keeping COVID-19 infections out of schools and preventing spread to others. **(Toolkit Page 14)**

Exposed: It is also essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent close contact to someone with COVID-19. Close contact with a case is defined as being physically exposed within 6 feet of another person for 15 minutes or longer cumulatively, within a 24 hour period. **(Toolkit Page 14)**

Handling Possible, Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19

As of 7/29, the CDC added an exception to the need to quarantine in the close contact definition, excluding students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or clinically compatible illness) where:

- Both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks; and
- Other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.
- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

(Toolkit Page 14)

Information Current as of September 9, 2021

14-Day Exclusion From In-Person Learning

- We will require a full 14-day (Calendar Days) exclusion from in-person learning for non-vaccinated individuals who are deemed as close contacts to someone that has tested positive for COVID-19
- For an individual to discontinue quarantine before the 14 days of last exposure they must wear their face coverings and maintain social distancing of 6' or more (Page 16 NC Toolkit) . It is too difficult to ensure that we can do that for every student, and, in order to be consistent, we are going to make this our procedure for all grade levels at this time.
- While our countywide transmissions rate are high we will continue this procedure. We will reconsider when the transmission rates decline.



Principals Discussion

Supports for Students in Quarantine and/or Isolation

- Elementary - Sending independent work home with students or dropping the work off at their homes.
- Middle - Ensuring student has a laptop at home; internet access, and Canvas access. Students and teachers will communicate assignments via Canvas.
- High - Laptops given to every student, hot spots provided if needed and Canvas access. Teachers are keeping their class documents loaded on Canvas

School Safety & Health



Child Nutrition



ACS Athletics

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

The AAP recommends universal masking in school at this time for the following reasons:

- a significant portion of the student population is not eligible for vaccination
- protection of unvaccinated students from COVID-19 and to reduce transmission
- potential difficulty in monitoring or enforcing mask policies for those who are not vaccinated; in the absence of schools being able to conduct this monitoring, universal masking is the best and most effective strategy to create consistent messages, expectations, enforcement, and compliance without the added burden of needing to monitor vaccination status
- possibility of low vaccination uptake within the surrounding school community
- continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adults

CDC COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as screening testing.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, and other members of their households and support in-person learning.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).
- Updated to recommend universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- Added recommendation for fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms.

Information Current as of September 9, 2021